THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Currently, the Haj quota is distributed among various States in the ratio of their Muslim population based on 2001 census. As such, the States where the concentration of Muslim population is more get more quota than the States where the concentration of Muslim population is less.

Construction work on Tipaimukh dam

†2152. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has asked India to stall construction work at Tipaimukh dam until its Parliamentary Committee visits the site;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reactions of Government to remarks made by the Bangladeshi water experts to the effect that construction of dam unilaterally is a violation of the Ganga Water Treaty; and

(d) the steps taken so far by Government against this reservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) In response to requests from the Bangladesh Government, Government has shared information on the Tipaimukh project with the Government of Bangladesh and have invited a Bangladesh Parliamentary Delegation to visit India to discuss the issues. Government are aware of reports indicating varied opinions in Bangladesh on the Tipaimukh project and remains ready to clarify issues whenever necessary.

Rehabilitation of Sikhs in Pakistan

†2153. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of Sikh families displaced from tribal areas of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has approached Pakistani Government for rehabilitation of Sikh families displaced from tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) There have been reports about Sikh families being driven out of their homes and being subjected to Jaziya and other such impositions.

(c) and (d) On seeing such reports, the Government of India had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson commented in response that Sikhs living in Pakistan were Pakistani citizens and hence of no concern to India. He also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

said that the Government of Pakistan was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly, the minority community.

Security of Sikhs in Pakistan

†2154. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Taliban terrorist in Pakistan have forced the Sikhs out by occupying their homes;

(b) if so, the details of wrongs being faced by Sikhs in Pakistan and current situation of Sikhs there;

(c) whether Central Government has approached Government of Pakistan for security of Sikhs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) There have been reports about Sikh families being driven out of their homes and being subjected to Jaziya and other such impositions.

(c) and (d) On seeing such reports, the Government of India had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson commented in response that Sikhs living in Pakistan were Pakistani citizens and hence of no concern to India. He also said that the Government of Pakistan was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly, the minority community.

960 MW project of Pakistan on Kishenganga River

2155. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Pakistan is contemplating to build a 960 MW project to dam the Kishenganga River on the other side of the Line of Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would impact our Kishenganga Hydropower Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Pakistan has awarded a 969 MW project called Neelum-Jhelum Hydroelectric Project (near Mazzafarabad) with a dam at Nauseri on River Neelum (Kishenganga) on the other side of the Line of Control, to a Chinese Consortium for implementation.

(c) and (d) Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project is upstream of the proposed Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project. Pakistan has objected to the construction of the Kishenganga

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.